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mmpa magazine of the 2016 YEAR
MINNESOTA MAGAZINE & PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

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ONLINE



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Prizes



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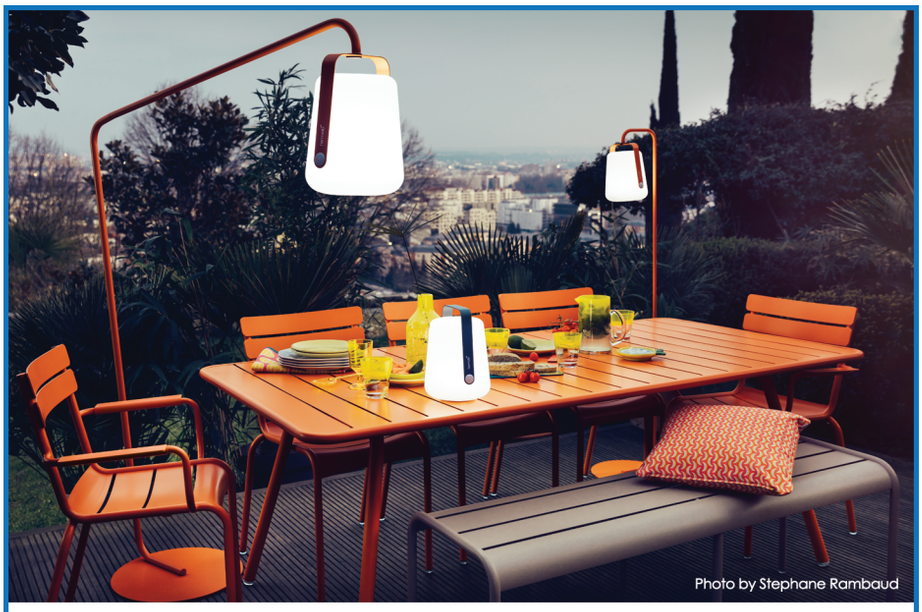
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Summer in the Cities kicks off with the Golden Valley Pride Festival, hosted by Jana Shortal.
Photo by Carly Danek

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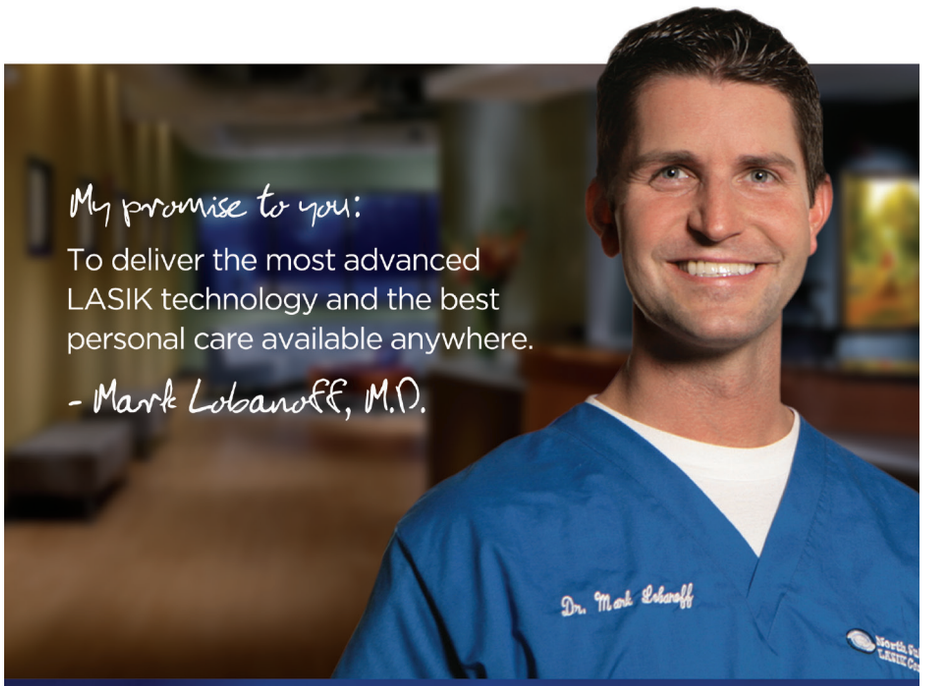


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FROM THE EDITOR | BY ANDY LIEN

Summer of Pride

Lavender's Summer in the Cities Issue wouldn't be complete without mentioning all the events we've got coming up that we're throwing for you, our readers. Lavender's two monthly events are amped up with more prizes and fun to be had, just for the summertime. First Thursday is for anyone who wants to come out and spend happy hour enjoying drink specials and appetizers with other people in our local rainbow community. Score Thursday has drink specials and appetizers while being geared toward sports, putting an emphasis on teams, friends, and fans who are out there and want to win money for equipment, travel, practices, competitions, and celebrations.

Put the events on your calendar and find us on Facebook and Eventbrite to register to win any of the prizes we'll be giving away! So far, the list includes the following dates, places, and goodies. We'll see you out there!

With Pride,
Andy

Summer of Pride Kickoff Party, June 1, 5:30 - 8:00
THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS
5 pairs of tickets to the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus concert on June 16
1 pair of Twins tickets
16 $25 gift cards to Waxing the City
2 $25 gift cards to Max's

Score Thursday, June 15, 5:30 - 8:00
THE FREEHOUSE
Cash prizes for teams with most guests in attendance: $150, $100, $50
1 pair of Twins tickets
2 $25 gift cards to Max's

First Thursday, July 6, 5:30 - 8:00
BURGER MOE'S
1 pair of Twins tickets
3 $25 gift cards to Max's

Lavender's OUT in the Stands, July 8, 1:10
TARGET FIELD, BUDWEISER ROOF DECK
$49/ticket for the Twins v. Orioles game and post-game party
Ticket sales benefit Perfect Storm Softball Team, Minneapolis Movie Bears, Stonewall Kickball, and TC Saints Softball Team

Score Thursday, July 20, 5:30 - 8:00
JAX CAFE
Cash prizes for teams with most guests in attendance: $150, $100, $50
1 pair of Twins tickets
3 $25 gift cards to Max's

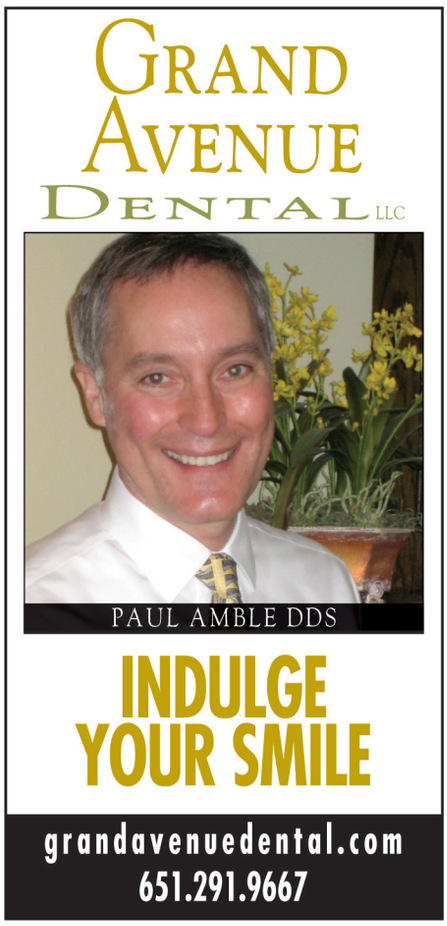
First Thursday, August 3, 5:30 - 8:00
THE COMMODORE BAR & RESTAURANT
3 pairs of Twins tickets
16 $25 gift cards to Waxing the City
3 $25 gift cards to Max's

Score Thursday, August 17, 5:30 - 8:00
TBA
Cash prizes for teams with most guests in attendance: $150, $100, $50
2 pairs of Twins tickets
3 $25 gift cards to Al Vento

First Thursday, September 7, 5:30 - 8:00
THE SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY CLUB
2 pairs of Twins tickets
16 $25 gift cards to Waxing the City
3 $25 gift cards to Al Vento

Score Thursday, September 21, 5:30 - 8:00
CAN CAN WONDERLAND
1 pair of Twins tickets
3 $25 gift cards to Al Vento ■





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LAVENDER'S SCORE THURSDAY AT UNION

APRIL 20, 2017


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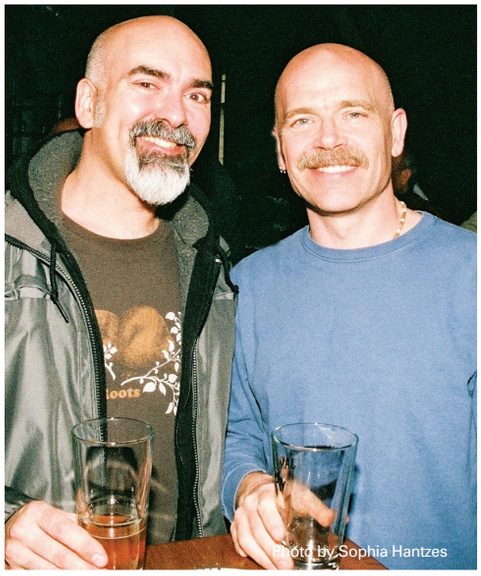

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

What's Your HIV Risk? Protect Yourself With PrEP.

More than 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV and one in eight don't know it. You can reduce your risk of getting HIV by 92% with pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

By taking a single pill every day, PrEP can prevent HIV from spreading throughout the body. PrEP is for people who have an ongoing risk of HIV infection and should always be combined with condoms to provide nearly 100% protection.

Finding a doctor who's well versed in its use can be a challenge. North Memorial Health Family Medicine Physician Erik Haugland, MD, works with his customers to determine if PrEP therapy is right for them.

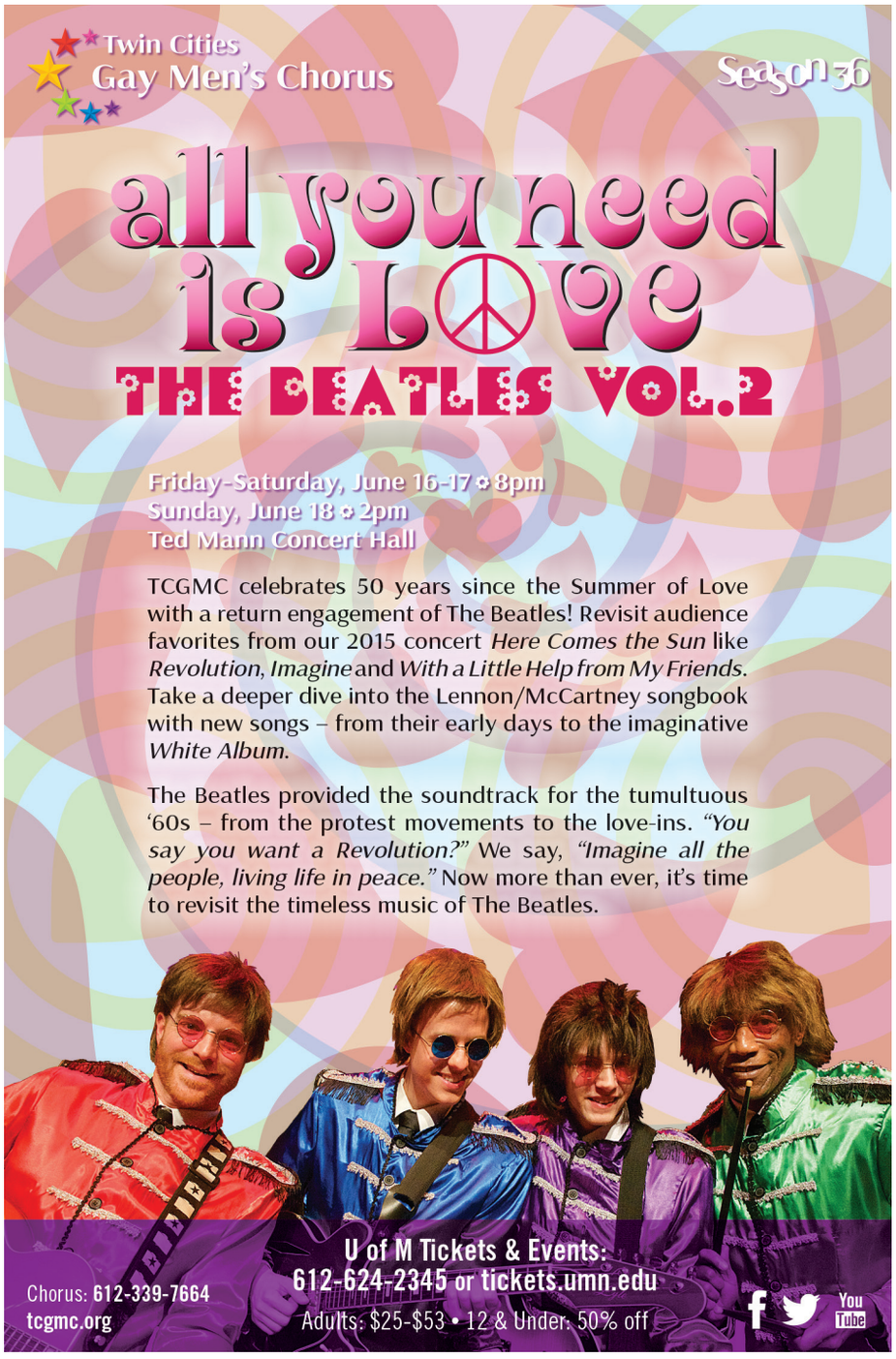
To learn more, visit Better Health News at: northmemorial.com.

To schedule an appointment, call (763) 581-CARE.

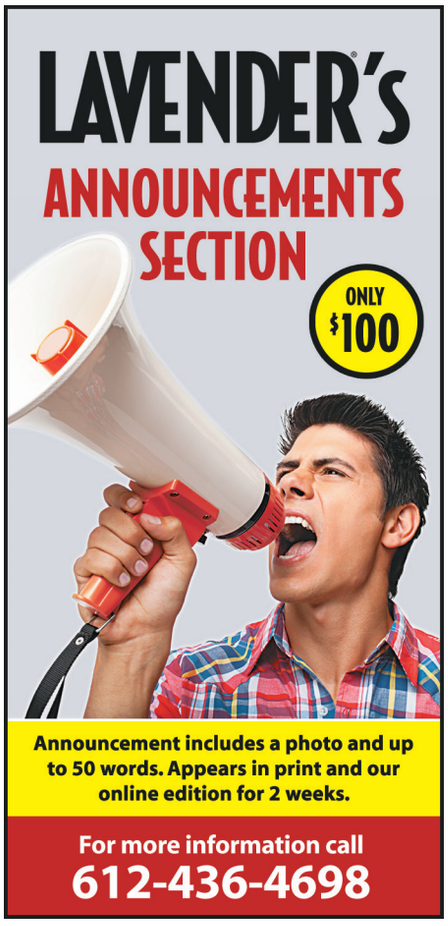
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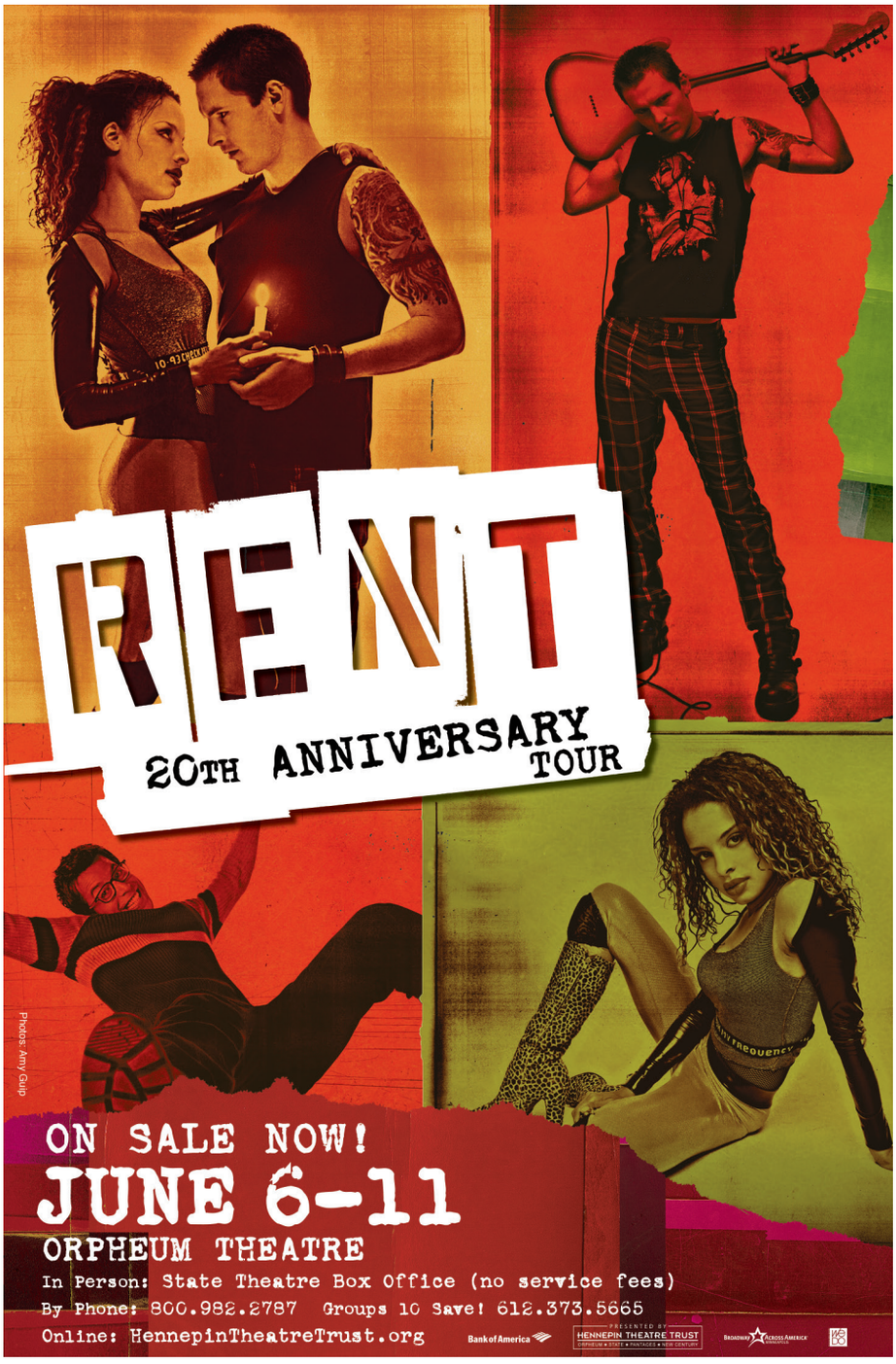

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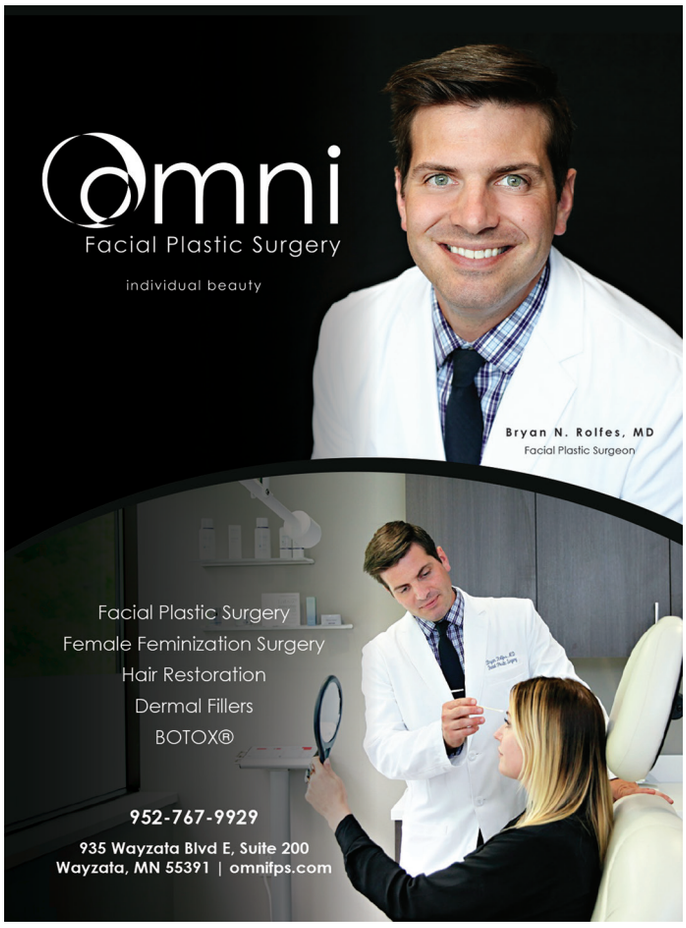

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365 Days/365 Plays: A 2017 Remix. Photo courtesy of LKBachman

365 DAYS/365 PLAYS: A 2017 REMIX

Through June 11
Penumbra Theatre, 270 N Kent St.
St. Paul
800-838-3006
365days265plays.bpt.me

In 2002 the first African American woman to become a Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist, Suzan-Lori Parks, set out to write a play a day. Four years later they premiered and played at different venues around the country. Fifteen years later Full Circle Theater Company is presenting a 2017 remix of these little dramatic nuggets. Co-artistic director Rick Shiomi, renown for his impressive directorial record with Theater Mu, says the plays are relevant today because of their attention to African American history, American history, relationships, and issues of gender and equality.

Shiomi adds, "With *365 Days/365 Plays*, Suzan-Lori Parks gives us sharp and funny insights into this 'Imperfect Union' called America. And we are diving in with six directors and ten actors taking on 46 of her short plays. So it's going to be quite a ride!" One of the directors is Harry Waters Jr., who was the original Belize in the Broadway production of *Angels in America*.



Up. Photo by Charles Gorrill

UP

Through June 11
Park Square Theatre's Boss Stage
20 W 7th Place, St. Paul
651-291-7005
www.theatreprorata.org

We love to know what makes those who push beyond the boundaries do what they do. In 1982 truck driver Larry Walters attached 45 helium-filled weather balloons to a lawn chair and was lifted 16,000 feet from his California backyard. Commercial airliners took notice and he drifted into the Long Beach airport area's controlled airspace. Bridget Carpenter's play about the man, titled *Up*, is a fictionalized meditation on the years in Walter's life following this extraordinary event. Theatre Pro Rata is presenting this seemingly incredible story, that was in fact credible, at Park Square.

Director Carin Bratlie Wethern shares, "*Up* is a wonderfully bittersweet story about Walter (John Middleton), a man chasing a dream that has already passed. The play features the French wire-walker Philippe Petit (Mark Benzel) in Walter's imagination, and we get to play around with magic realism and wire-walking. Fun for us in rehearsals and fun for the audience in performance."

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

Through June 18
Children's Theatre, 2400 3rd Ave. S
Minneapolis
612-874-0400
www.childrentstheatre.org

I saw the original Chidren's Theatre's 2002 world premiere of *A Year With Frog and Toad* less than two years before it transferred to New York and would garner a deserving Tony nomination for Best Musical. And I definitely enjoyed it. But now I don't know if it's me or not, or that a decade and a half have passed, but the current and fourth revival of Willie Real's stage adaptation and lyrics, with music by his brother, Robert Reale, is essentially perfection in theater. An even greater production than the original.

Based on Arnold Lobel's beloved books, *A Year With Frog and Toad* is a profoundly simple story of a frog and a toad who have a powerful natural bond and basic, typical experiences that they seize during the warmer months before and after slumber in winter hibernation. At first glance, you'd wonder what's so dramatic about that?

The narrative includes ordinary events like modesty over being seen in a swim suit, the need to just be by yourself sometimes, and facing the fear of riding a snow sled. As mundane as these things may seem, the production has an uncanny way of making us present how deeply important these little moments are when we take time to notice them. Peter Rothstein has numinously directed the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
  - Have fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).



What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
  Pregnancy Registry: A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about

TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices.**

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.**
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.

GILEAD

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A Year with Frog and Toad. Photo by Dan Norman

piece so that we apprehend the full richness of little moments and interactions. Every moment is significant. There are no catastrophic events or titanic showdowns, yet paradoxically, that's part of its power.

The two title characters interact and observe as if they are being overseen by the universe, or nature, or God, or whatever higher power. Despite Toad's insecurities we sense that all is right with the world, a great thing for children watching the show, not to mention adults. There is great love that permeates throughout and that emanates from the sweet chemistry of bonded male friendship in the performances of Reed Sigmund as overly sensitive Toad and Bradley Greenwald as the ever-poised and nurturing Frog. The two spark a charming symbiosis, something like Bob Hope and Bing Crosby.

The pair is vibrantly supported by a singing trio, like a Greek chorus, but with vaudevillian flair and a hint of vintage Busby Berkeley film musicals. They play birds and other creatures who definitely have attitudes about the world around them. Daniel Pelzig's choreography capitalizes on this, often to hilarious effect.

Traci Allen Shannon utterly beguiles as multiple creatures. Matt Rubelke brings boyish vigor to his roles. And the night I attended, dance captain Elise Benson was covering for CTC veteran Autumn Ness, and she held her own seamlessly. The whole cast bursts with wonderful vocals that echo of various musical genres in a Broadway musical format. Music direction by Victor Zupanc is crisp and excellent. Martin Pakledinaz's costumes are cleverly suggestive of wild creatures with larger-than-life personalities.

THE BALTIMORE WALTZ

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Paula Vogel's acclaimed dark comedy came into being in the early 1990s as a response to her brother's 1988 death of AIDS-related complications. *The Baltimore Waltz* is a metaphorical piece that imagines a European trip in which a sister and brother, Anna and Carl, seek out fleshly pleasures. They also seek a cure for an "incurable" disease that Anna contracted called Acquired Toilet Disease (ATD), a terminal ailment she got from toilet seats in the elementary school where she teaches. Obviously this spoofs the paranoid superstition rampant in the early '80s that you could get AIDS from a toilet seat. Vogel gets even more in your face as both siblings are attracted to men and set out to bed as many of them as possible on their trip. In Anna's case, this desire has become an unbridled passion despite the debilitating effects of ATD.

The Baltimore Waltz is a play shaped by unexpected choices that speak to the AIDS crisis that was still ferociously raging in the early '90s, as well as a counter to the anti-sex feminism that had gained a foothold at the same time. It celebrates sex as a life force in the face of death. And as you may have guessed, *The Baltimore Waltz* probes into how we handle the inevitability of that undiscovered country called death.

Theatre Coup d'Etat's revival has been directed by Lauren Diesch. She says the play is "Paula Vogel's perfect, imperfect memory of her brother, Carl, and the fantastical trip to Europe they planned, but never took. It lives somewhere between fantasy and reality, between farce and tragedy, between the remembered and the imagined. At its core is love. Love between two siblings facing an unthinkable, but not uncommon event: death." Diesch is also drawn to the play's "exploration of how we cope when the world as we know it crumbles."

Kari Nielsen, who plays Anna, says the playwright "manages to capture and verbalize loss in a way that is honest, beautiful, and utterly infused with love. I lost someone I love last year, and Paula Vogel's text has verbalized things I struggle to find words for."

The AIDS crisis of Carl's time actually launched a rocket of desire for a gigantic shift in health care, both in its delivery and in its capacity to cure. Nicholas Kaspari, who plays Carl, points out that "*The Baltimore Waltz* clairvoyantly and comedically addresses not only the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the late '80s and early '90s, but also speaks volumes about the current healthcare political climate."

Pulitzer Prize-winner Vogel is renown as a lesbian feminist dramatist but she has never been one to reject to so-called patriarchal arts canon out of hand. Note her forward for an edition of Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*. In *The Baltimore Waltz* she draws from the Carol Reed film noir classic from the Graham Greene thriller *The Third Man*, to create a man of mystery. Playing "The Third Man" for Coup d'Etat is Kip Dooley. He thinks his role may get audiences to consider our tech addictions/compulsions: "Are we more connected or more isolated, more authentic or more generic, more free or more paralyzed by internet-based technology? *The Baltimore Waltz* provides valuable insights to these questions with an entertaining, smart, and redemptive tale about family, loss, and self-discovery."

Coup d'Etat co-founding artistic director James Stone says the play is about groups and individuals choosing to "dauntlessly resist, persisting against fear, and championing the right to pursue joy." ■

IN THE Summer CITIES

BECAUSE WE CAN, CAN, CAN!

BY ANDY LIEN



Photos by Katherine Harris of The Jadeite Shutter

Remember the scene in the movie *Moulin Rouge* when Ewan McGregor is experiencing the cancan dancers for the first time? Jim Broadbent starts the action and song by Fatboy Slim by yelling "Because we can, can, can!" The stage swirls, women twirl, legs kick, and dancers create a flurry of color and movement as he sings, "Everybody can, can!" Similar to that scene, Can Can Wonderland, in one of the industrial pockets of St. Paul, swallows up visitors and pulls us into a loud gallery of motion, sound, smells, tastes, and scintillation. Bordering on overstimulation, the whole experience can never be consumed on a single visit, but requires return trips. The original art on the walls, the furnishings, the artist-made mini-golf course, the arcade games, the stage, the drinks, the food: there's no way to dance fast enough for this place. But try, we can, can, can.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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COSMOPOLITAN ROOM



And I am absolutely thrilled about that. St. Paul needed a bit more fun. We're seen as kind of stuffy over here. I know this to not be true, but you kind of have to be in the know to find the extended versions of St. Paul. The director's cut. Where the streets are crooked and we let loose a bit. You also need to know how to find this place. Look for a smokestack, some signs, and just follow your art-instinct (GPS helps). I found myself parking beneath a building and knew I was in the right place when I was parked next to a huge puppet-bicycle, the likes of which I'd seen at the May Day Parade and the Art Shanty Project.

Now added to my beloved list of art-centric experiences, Can Can Wonderland is reminiscent of so much, but all brought together in one location. It's campy like Betty Danger's, but without the big wheel to ride. It's like going out to Franconia Sculpture Park, but it's in a big basement in St. Paul…and you play mini golf through it. Then add some of the fun that has come with bringing back arcade games as has been done with Up-Down arcade bar and TILT Pinball Bar in Minneapolis, but make them go even further back in time.



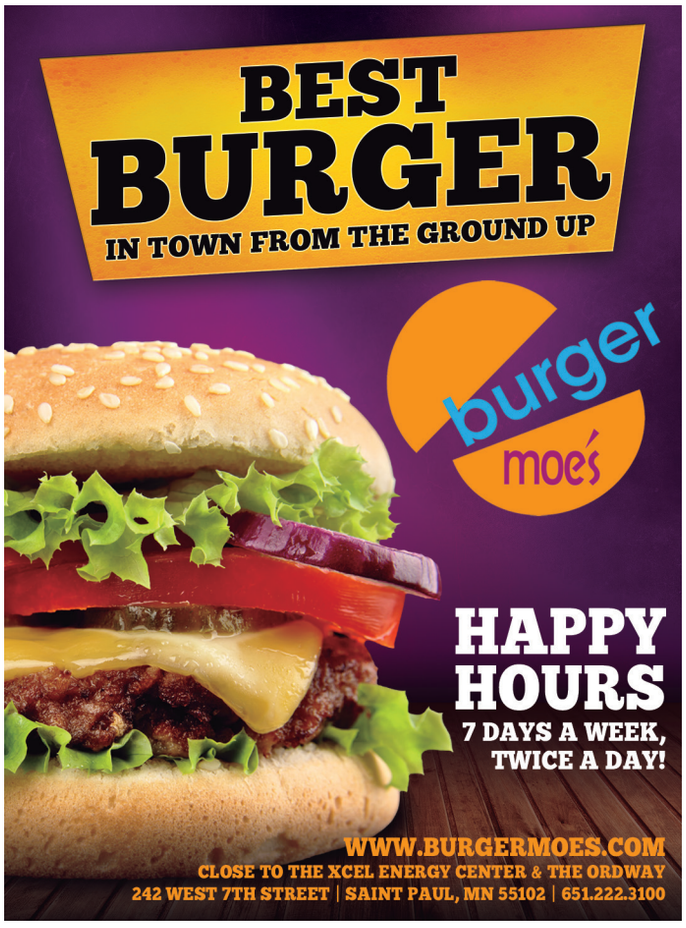




Add some amusement park food, cocktails and beverages that delight the eyes as well as the tongues, and then stir in a lively events calendar to bring about a whirlwind of activity. This place is like no other.

It should come as no surprise that all of these things can be pulled together with style, skill, and overwhelming popularity. The people behind this venture — Christi Atkinson, Rob Clapp, Chris Pennington, and Jennifer Pennington — are also those who've brought about such art projects as Walker artist-designed mini golf, the Ten Second Film Festival, and Soap Factory's Haunted Basement. These are wildly popular attractions in our art-o-sphere, as is Can Can Wonderland now. What's more, Can Can Wonderland is the first arts-based public benefit corporation in Minnesota with the social purpose to be an economic engine for the arts. So, what you spend there not only pays for your experiences, but goes back

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24


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into providing funding for the arts. Talk about a win-win.

The main attraction is the mini-golf course at $12 a round for adults, $9 a round for kids, veterans, and folks who are 62 and older. With 18 holes, there is so much to see and pay attention to, more than just your ball or where it's going. Or the drink you're holding (I need a holster for my ice cream soda float the next time I go). I suggest checking out the artists on the website and reading up on the pieces you'll be playing on and in and around. Each hole has not only a person or a team that designed it, but a person or team that fabricated it, being sure to give credit where it's due. There are Rube Goldberg-esque holes (perhaps all mini-golf holes are), one with kitschy furniture, a frog, some water, and the last one is really hard, where you have to hit the golf ball off of a baseball tee (I think I need a helmet for that one next time). Watching people play through is as much fun as playing the holes, in my opinion, and many people do just drink on the sides and watch the melee go by.

Then, be sure to grab some grub and libations. The Culinary Amusement Park has a crazy array of foods, including toasties featuring cheese, brisket, Nutella, and veggies; nachos featuring chili, barbacoa, and beer cheese toppings; hot dogs served old-school, Coney, bahn mi, vegan, mac and cheese, and with bacon and cheese; salads; mini donuts (with a variety of toppings); Heggie's pizzas and Hot Pockets after 10 at night; and snacks like cotton candy, popcorn, and pretzels. With two bars, the Main Bar and the Wee Bar, Bittercube has designed cocktails to sling with plenty of whimsy to be imbibed. There's a carrot drink that comes in a terra cotta pot. Adult milkshakes to please the sweet tooth. Cereal-coated cocktails. Be prepared to smile at what comes (and passes by) your way.

Things to take note of before visiting include the hours, the location, the wait list, the activity level, and the willingness to let an experience take control of you. Can Can Wonderland is open Thursday through Sunday and shares a building with BlackStack Brewing, so parking is a bit competitive in the lots, but there's plenty of room on the streets. The mini-golf course has a wait list, so be sure to get there early to get your name on it, then have some fun in the rest of the place. Be prepared for a lot of people, including kids, and plenty of noise, including the World's Most Dangerous Polka Band (from Nye's!) or variety shows and concerts. You can check Can Can Wonderland's website for all of the activities to attend or aim for more quiet times on Thursday and Sunday afternoons if you're not ready for a whole lot of busy-ness. And then let go when you get there.

There's a very interesting business model here that is not often seen. It's not a museum, nor is it a for-profit arcade and entertainment center. Those both have rather static attractions that are staid and predictable, with exhibits or features that switch out on occasion. It's not only not a corporate chain restaurant, but it's got amusement park food with drinks as fancy and frivolous as amusement park rides. It's not a place with delineated rules and expectations, but it's organized chaos with group tap dance lessons and balloon animals on the side. It's a dream that's been brought to fruition and I am so excited that it exists. There's plenty of risk involved, but risk can bring reason. And that reason is that people will return to experience it differently every time. ■

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IN THE Summer CITIES

PRIDE FESTIVAL

GOLDEN TURNS TO RAINBOW

BY KASSIDY TARALA



Photo by Carly Danek

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Photos courtesy of Golden Valley Pride Festival

This year, Golden Valley Pride Festival is being hosted by Jana Shortal, reporter and co-anchor of *Breaking the News* on KARE 11.

The Second Annual Golden Valley Pride Festival is right around the corner on June 11 from noon to 6 p.m. Hosted at Brookview Park, Golden Valley Pride Festival will have music performances, activities for kids, food trucks, and an interfaith church service. This year's Pride Festival is geared toward the whole family, so whether you're eight, 80, or somewhere in between, there's bound to be something for you. This year, some new events and activities will be offered to participants including the Pride Color Run hosted by the local Girl Scouts, a *Lavender*-sponsored beer garden featuring local beer on tap, pet-friendly events including pet pilates and a pet treat food truck, and new festival merchandise including glitter ink tattoos, beer tumblers, bracelets, beads, and T-shirts.

Because more gay couples, including married and unmarried, live in Golden Valley than any other city in Minnesota, it is the perfect location to celebrate your life, your love, and who you are. "Golden Valley has led the way in its openness to diversity. In 2012, Golden Valley city leaders officially supported equality and marriage rights by creating one of the earliest civil union registries," says John Kluchka, Golden Valley Pride Festival team co-chair. Local community businesses and individuals help privately fund the event. Among these are General Mills, Borton Volvo, *Lavender* magazine, Seattle Sutton's Healthy Eating, The UPS Store, Allianz, Keller Williams Realty Elite Ziegelman Team, Lunds & Byerly's, Sunrise Senior Living of Golden Valley, Edina Realty City Lakes Office, and Orthology.

This year, Golden Valley Pride Festival is being hosted by Jana Shortal, reporter and co-anchor of *Breaking the News* on KARE 11. Shortal was honored to get involved in Golden Valley Pride Festival, especially because Golden Valley, where KARE 11 is located, is considered a second home to Shortal. As the host, Shortal is responsible for making sure the event runs smoothly. She will be introducing the musicians and speakers and directing an event that is based on the premise that this is a place to love, to be loved, and to have fun as a community.

As a member of the GLBTQ community, Shortal is grateful for the festival because it is a time to celebrate who we are, who we love, what the community has struggled through, and where we are now. "People gave their lives in this fight for equality. This didn't just 'happen' — this isn't just a party. This, to me, is a sacred time to look back at our history and realize our present. While we have so much, some still do not. Some still will lose their jobs for being gay. In THIS country. So while Pride celebrates our community, we must remember how we got here," says Shortal.

Shortal says she is mostly excited for Golden Valley Pride Festival because she is excited to celebrate the community's strength. "Last June was very difficult for all of us, we celebrated our Pride in Golden Valley in the hours after the massacre at Pulse. It was a horrific reminder of how unsafe our safe spaces once were, and on that June night, were again. I'm excited to be grateful in this community for being as strong and beautiful as it is," she says. Although the community is known for its immense strength, openness, and love, it can often be difficult for people to acknowledge that it is a community they are a part of. For Shortal, her coming out process took years, and coming out to herself took the longest. "I came out later in life, in my mid-20s, and prior to that I had feelings I didn't know quite what to do with. I think that is why the community is so important to me now — I didn't have that in my coming out time. I didn't know LGBTQ people. I didn't know what life could be," Shortal says.

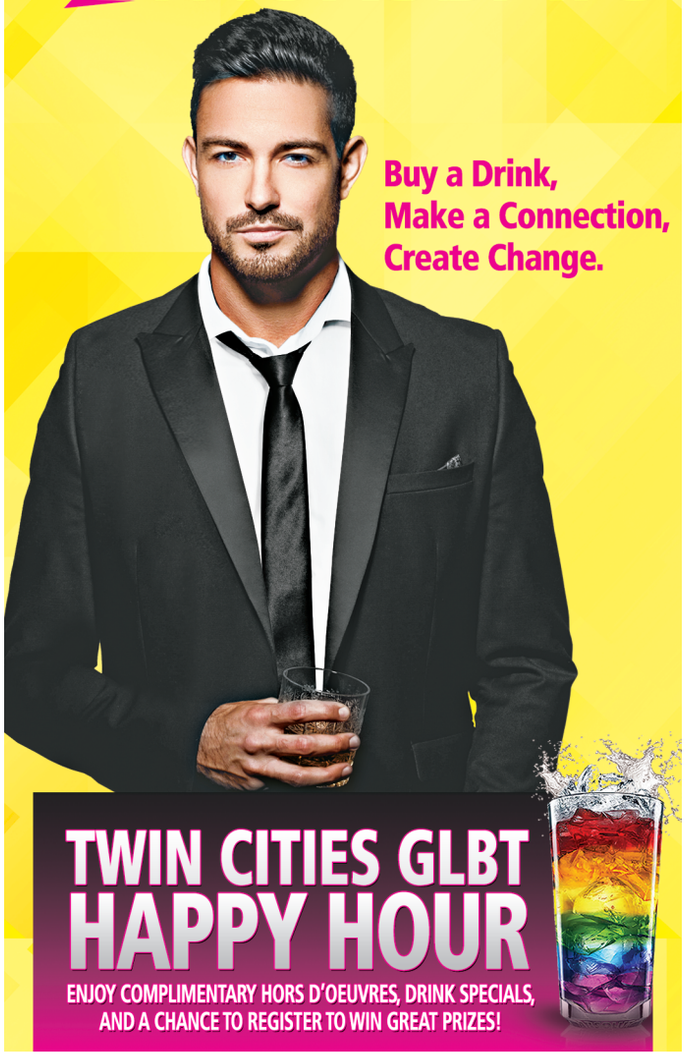
Because the coming out process is so unique and different for everyone who experiences it, Shortal says that it is extremely important to first recognize and accept it in yourself. Talking about it and realizing that the things you feel and the person you are is not at all something to be ashamed of but, rather, something to celebrate. "There is no ONE way to do this. There is only your way," she says.

Shortal says that before coming out to loved ones, friends and your community, you must first come to fully understand yourself. Be solid in knowing who you are because there might be people who will try to tell you that you're wrong or that you don't know what you're talking about. Love who you are because no one quite knows you like you do. "I found it easier to come out to people one at a time at first, a kind of testing of the waters, if you will. And that made it much easier. One at a time gave me input — good and bad — and then I could figure out how to internalize that, how to deal with it," Shortal says.

Whether you're celebrating yourself and your own journey, a loved one, or simply appreciating the community as a whole, Golden Valley Pride Festival will be a place where standing out will allow you to fit in. Enjoy being different, love who you are, and never, ever let anyone make you feel discouraged about it. "Stay absolutely true to who you are. It took you a long time to get here, don't let anyone take that away from you," says Shortal. ■

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IN THE Summer CITIES

NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE

NORTH LOOP AND UPTOWN

BY KASSIDY TARALA

Minneapolis: a city of many hats — or should I say neighborhoods. From Central to Northeast, the neighborhoods of Minneapolis are just as diverse as the people in them. With so many neighborhoods and so many different places to go, it can often be difficult to find the right local spots that suit our own personal needs. With this neighborhood guide for two of Minneapolis' most popular neighborhoods, North Loop and Uptown, we offer up some options for your consideration.

• NORTH LOOP •

Minneapolis' fastest-growing neighborhood, North Loop is located in Minneapolis' Warehouse District and is now one of Minneapolis' most prominent spots to eat, drink, shop, live, and work. Located in downtown Minneapolis, North Loop is easily accessible from every other neighborhood of the city.



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

MARTIN PATRICK 3

Dedicated to helping men look and feel their best with accessories, apparel, home goods, apothecary, gifts, and tech, Martin Patrick 3 has it all. While you shop around for clothing and accessories, don't forget to check out the display tables themselves. Almost everything in the store is for sale, so not only does your wardrobe get some TLC, but your entire home does too. Martin Patrick 3 works directly with interior designers, architects, and contractors, and trade items are often offered at a discount. Brands include American Essentials, Four Hands, Naked & Famous, and a long list of others.

212 3rd Ave. N #106
Minneapolis
www.martinpatrick3.com

JETSET BAR

Known around North Loop for having the best cocktails in Minneapolis, Jetset Bar is a gay lounge and nightclub with DJs, karaoke, and specialty cocktails. Jetset is known for getting people out of their seats and onto the dance floor. From the current top hits to songs that will bring you a nostalgic blast from the past, the DJs play music that appeals to everyone in the crowd, especially those who aren't afraid to bust out some moves. Although there is no food menu, you'll forget all about it when you taste the famous (and strong) Jetset cocktails.



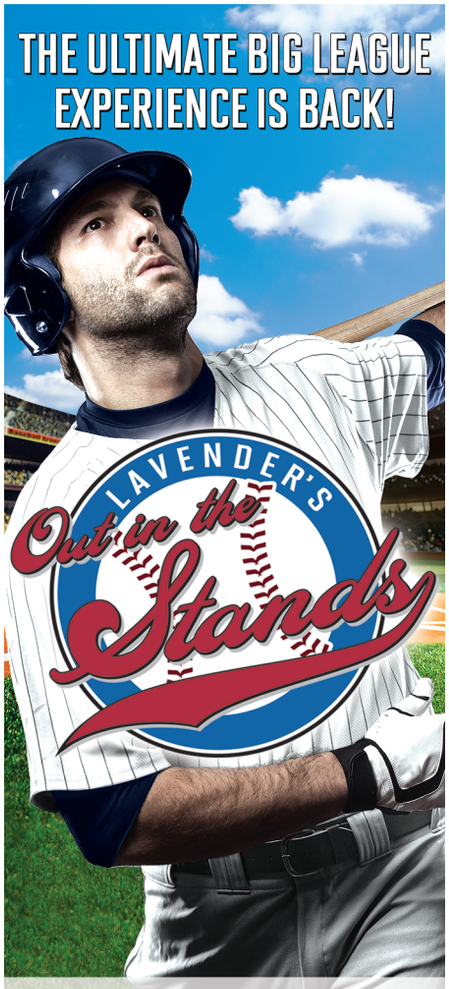
Photo by Hubert Bonnet

115 N 1st St., Minneapolis
www.jetsetbar.com

JEROMEO

Previously located in Nicollet Mall, Jeromeo relocated to North Loop in 2013. The shop and wellness center focuses on massage therapy while offering antiques, furniture, jewelry, pottery, art, and essential oils

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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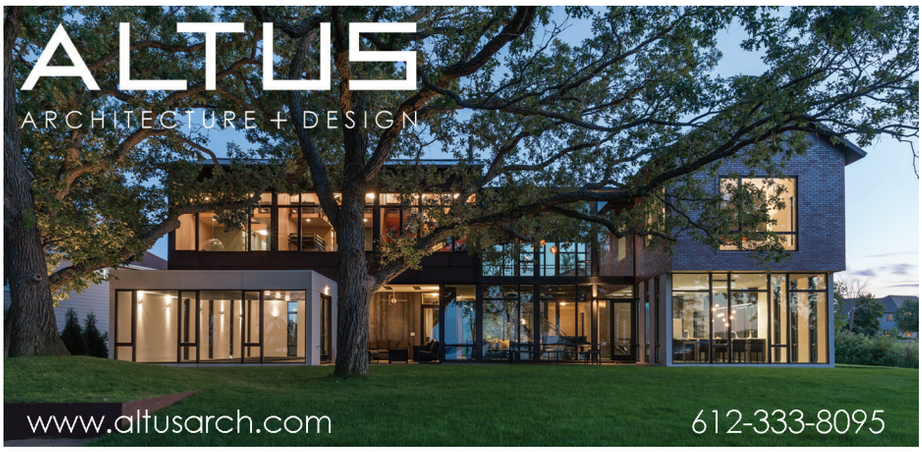
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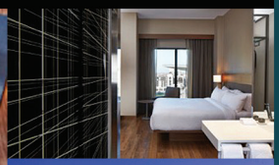


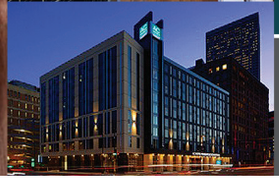
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Photos by Hubert Bonnet

businesses, restaurants, and entertainment. Uptown Minneapolis is an intersection between Minnesota's rich history and modern day culture. The endless array of restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues keeps Uptown just as lively at night as it is during the day.

UPTOWN ART FAIR

Come August, you can enjoy the unique art scene of Minneapolis at the Uptown Art Fair hosted by the Uptown Association. The event includes professional works of art in various media including sculptures, jewelry, paintings, ceramics, and several more. For the young artists, a Youth Art Fair is held inside Calhoun Square where artists between eight and 18 years old can display and sell their work. A variety of entertainment, food, beverages, and competitions are also available for people of all ages.
1406 W Lake St. #202
Minneapolis
www.uptownartfair.com

MIDWEST MAKEUP SUPPLY

From daily wear to high-performance stage makeup, Midwest Makeup Supply has it all. Known for its great products for burlesque and drag performers, the shelves of Midwest Makeup Supply are stocked with everything you need. Whether it's lashes, body paint and powder, or makeup advice, the staff of Midwest Makeup Supply is prepared to help.
617 W Lake St., Minneapolis
www.midwestmakeupsupply.com

to shoppers. Items are from local designers as well as imported from places as far as Asia. You can also schedule an appointment with a massage therapist and participate in their wellness center's yoga classes. For new clients, a BOGO massage special is available including 60- and 90-minute sessions.
250 3rd Ave. N, Minneapolis
www.jeromeo.com

THE LAB THEATER

Old warehouse-turned-playing-space, The Lab Theater is a treasure of North Loop. The Guthrie Theater converted the space into a performance venue while conserving the unique history of the warehouse. Today, various groups use the space for live theater, music, dance, cabaret, fashion, and burlesque. The Lab Theater recently opened parking across the street which opens at 6 p.m. and goes at a rate of $5 per customer. Tickets to performances are available online as well as at the doors of each event.
700 N 1st St., Minneapolis
www.thelabtheater.org

GAY 90'S

One of Minneapolis' most iconic rainbow nightclubs, the Gay 90's serves customers with its dance club sprawled out through various rooms, multiple bars, and restaurant. Known for being gay- and straight-friendly, the 90's is a hot spot for anyone looking for a good time. With themed events including Kinky Friday, Eggs and Drags



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Brunch, Burlesque nights, and several others, Gay 90's always has something new in store. Also, 18+ nights are hosted every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and every third full weekend of the month.
408 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
www.gay90s.com

MOOSE & SADIE'S CAFE

Owned by Peter Kirihara, same owner as Jetset Bar, Moose & Sadie's Cafe opened in 1991 and is the first coffee shop in the Warehouse District. Known for their diverse staff and openness to diverse customers, Moose & Sadie's is somewhere that truly makes you feel like family. With a menu full of homemade treats like pastries, cornmeal pancakes, chicken pot pie, and more, Moose & Sadie's will give your taste buds a stroll down memory lane as you're reminded of the delicious hot meals Mom or Dad served up when you were a kid.
212 3rd Ave. N #107
Minneapolis
www.mooseandsadies.com

RED RABBIT

Delicious pasta, pizza, sandwiches, and more — what else could you ask for? Red Rabbit does it all with their brunch, lunch, and dinner menus featuring items like fresh oysters, salmon, tortelloni, and a long list of pizzas. As much as you'll want to eat up every last bite of your scrumptious meal, don't forget to save room for dessert. Their sticky toffee cake, panna cotta, chocolate budino, and affogato will make you glad you did.
201 N Washington Ave.
Minneapolis
www.redrabbitmn.com

• UPTOWN •

A popular commercial district of Minneapolis, Uptown is home to some of the most vibrant



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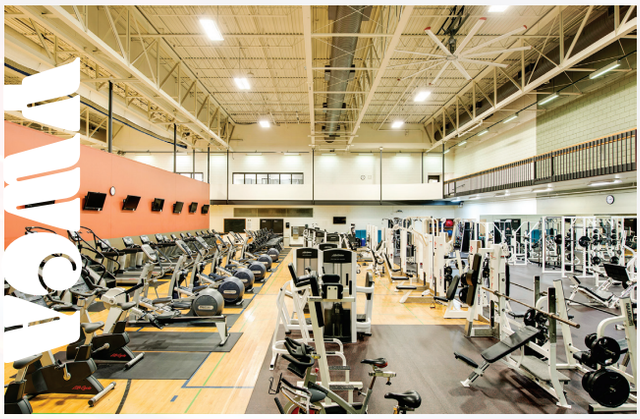


Photo courtesy of YWCA Minneapolis



Photo by Jenna Papke

PENZEY'S SPICES

Warm cinnamon, rich vanilla, and sweet curry — the plethora of spices at Penzey's Spices will leave you wandering the aisles and taking in the wonderful smells for hours. Penzey's Spices of Uptown has everything you need for baking, cooking, or simply adding some flavor to any meal. Gift boxes also make excellent options for birthdays and holidays. Penzey's Spices proves that it belongs on everything that comes out of the kitchen, and their social media presence pushes messages of love and acceptance that we can get behind. With spices for grilling to seasonings for salads, it's likely that you won't step into Penzey's Spices and leave empty-handed.
3028 Hennepin Ave. S
Minneapolis
www.penzeys.com

TWIN CITIES LEATHER & LATTE

By the kinky for the kinky, Twin Cities Leather & Latte started out as a small business run out of the basement of a mansion and today serves as the top kink and BDSM-related leather goods and sex toys retailer in the Midwest. Twin Cities Leather & Latte understands that everyone is different, so it's no wonder that our sex lives are too. Known for their variety of harnesses, staff measure customers in-store to ensure that each harness is made-to-measurement and makes every customer feel comfortable in his or her own skin. Be sure to get a latte and baked good for good measure.
2717 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
www.twincitiesleather.com

YWCA

It can often be difficult to find a gym that perfectly suits our own individual workout needs. YWCA's Uptown location provides every customer a personalized experience that brings comfort and peace of mind to everyone using the gym. With a seven-lane lap pool, indoor track, whirlpool and sauna, fitness classes, group trainings, and personal trainers, YWCA has something for everyone and provides it all in a safe and accepting community setting.
2808 Hennepin Ave. S
Minneapolis
www.ywcampls.org

PHOENIX THEATER

With such deeply rooted culture, Uptown celebrates art in every form. As a well-known city for theater, Minneapolis' Uptown neighborhood does not disappoint. Phoenix Theater, located on Hennepin Avenue, offers the community a variety of shows from dramas to comedies. Also, Phoenix Theater celebrates this community with a variety of performances and events including one of their most popular events "April Showers Bring Rainbows."
2605 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
www.phoenixtheatermpls.org

PATRICK'S CABARET

A queer-led performance art incubator, Patrick's Cabaret puts the spotlight on performers of color, disabilities, and those with queer and trans identities. By encouraging their artists and performers to celebrate their diversity, they create a unique setting of trying new things, taking risks, and connecting the community to education, performance platforms, and various talents. Support local artists, experience new forms of art, or challenge yourself by stepping into the spotlight. You can do it all at Patrick's Cabaret.
2822 Lyndale Ave. S
Minneapolis
www.patrickscabaret.org

COMMON ROOTS CAFE

With a French and Yiddish background, Common Roots Cafe brings the tradition of delicatessen and nosherie to the modern dinner table. From bagel sandwiches and breakfast burritos to lamb meatballs and chipotle polenta, the menu of Common Roots Cafe is so diverse that you'll get a new experience every time you dine. A kids menu is also available for the younger crowd or picky eaters of all ages. Much of the produce comes from their own garden; vegan and gluten-free options are also available.
25576 Lyndale Ave. S
Minneapolis
www.commonrootscafe.com

While the neighborhoods of Minneapolis can sometimes be intimidating with so many places to try, hopefully this neighborhood guide will give you a better idea of the places that should be at the top of your list. From North Loop to Uptown, the possibilities for a welcoming atmosphere to get some exercise, a modern spot for a quick bite to eat, or a dance club with cocktails as good as the DJ truly are endless. ■



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IN THE Summer CITIES

LET'S GO TO THE CASINO

PLACE YOUR BETS

BY TERRANCE GRIEP



Photo courtesy of Coady Photography

Nearby (and Not-So-Nearby) Casinos Offer Thrills and Spills This Summer

When Danny Ocean gathered his eleven specialized friends, he was hoping to rake in 150 million dollars from three Vegas casinos. We at *Lavender* magazine cannot guarantee those kinds of results, but we do offer this primer to any chance takers who would like to spend part of their summer gaming. These outlets are listed according to nearness to the Twin Cities, from closest to farthest. So, as the Chairman might put it, "Place your bets!"

CANTERBURY PARK

1100 Canterbury Rd. S
Shakopee
www.canterburypark.com

Where games of chance are concerned, Canterbury Park is, naturally, most often associated with horse racing. From early May to Labor Day, Canterbury Park runs a meet that consists of 69 racing days, generally holding scheduled races Thursday through Sunday, with racing added on several holidays throughout the meet. If you prefer to win or lose money under your own steam, card games are available, often presented in the form of tournaments: $50 New Player Bonus, Overnight Quads, $100 No Limit Hold'em, and $35 No Limit Hold'em, just to name a few. Bar and restaurant options likewise abound: Triple Crown Buffet, Triple Crown Restaurant, Home Stretch, and The Finish Line Cafe are but a few of your choices. A free trolley connects Canterbury Park to Mystic Lake Casino's Hotel.

MYSTIC LAKE CASINO HOTEL

2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.
Prior Lake
www.mysticlake.com

Mystic Lake's games include slot machines, blackjack, bingo,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



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MYSTIC LAKE CASINO HOTEL

Photo courtesy of Mystic Lake Casino Hotel

cosmic bingo, and pull tabs, all contained within 150,000 square feet of space. A 600-room hotel and spa are available for your sleeping and soaking pleasures, as well as an adjacent 122-space RV park. Mystic Lake's complimentary shuttle services stop at more than 50 stops throughout Minnesota. Mystic Lake is home to seven restaurants, three bars, and even a coffee shop. For those who prefer to do their gambling while wearing ugly, checkered pants, golfing can be had at The Meadow at Mystic Lake course that sports 80 bunkers and 13 holes; Dakotah! Sports & Fitness Center is a parallel option, hopefully sans ugly pants. This summer, the Mystic Showroom will provide a stage for such diverse marquee acts as Tony Bennett, Led Zeppelin 2, and Lionel Richie.

RUNNING ACES CASINO & RACETRACK

15201 Zurich St. NE, Columbus
www.runaces.com

Designed to mimic its Las Vegas counterparts, Running Aces Casino & Racetrack's card room features such games as Mississippi Stud, Fortune Pai Gow, 3- & 4-Card Poker, Texas Hold'em, and more. Bingo and carnival games are also possibilities, but such contests represent only half of the equation. Running Aces' summertime schedule obviously includes harness horse racing. And if you're the type of gambler who likes to catch his own dinner before eating it, you're in luck: an on-site pond affords takers the Trout Air Experience, where you catch a live fish which can even be cleaned and cooked for you, just like the pioneers of old, except for the cleaning and cooking part. In terms of entertainment, Running Aces offers monthly comedy shows, outdoor concerts, and various events throughout the year. And like the casinos of Vegas, Running Aces is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

TREASURE ISLAND RESORT & CASINO

5734 Sturgeon Lake Rd, Welch
www.ticasino.com

The only casino resort in southern Minnesota located on the Mississippi River, Treasure Island's gaming contingencies include slot machines, blackjack, keno, poker, pull tabs, video roulette, live dealer blackjack, and island bingo. If playing in someone else's ugly shoes is your thing, a 24-lane bowling center is at your disposal. After that emotional purge, you can recharge within the sanctuary of a hotel room. Or, if you prefer to sleep within your transport, you can do so at the RV park, and if you really want to work Treasure Island's island motif, you can take advantage of the marina located just one mile north of the casino. This summer, the Island Event Center will serve as a showcase for acts as varied as Olivia Newton-John, Chicago, Weezer, and Willie Nelson, among many others. Other summer-centric outlets include a water park and spa.

ST. CROIX CASINO TURTLE LAKE

777 Hwy 8/63, Turtle Lake, WI
www.turtlelake.stcroixcasino.com

St. Croix Casino Turtle Lakes boasts "a thousand ways to play," and that's not much of an exaggeration. Some of the ways to play are blackjack, craps, roulette, slot machines, and poker, as manifested in either tournaments and showdowns. Turning your playing adventures into a weekend getaway is an option thanks to the St. Croix Casino Turtle Lake Hotel, located about a block and a half west of the casino proper, and true road warriors can hang their hubcaps at the adjoining RV park. Dining and drinking options vary from Florsheimed to flip-flopped, those options including the TLC Buffet, a concession stand, Me-Ki-Noc Restaurant, and Craft Beer Bar in the Lodge. The St. Croix Casino Turtle Lake Event Center will, in the coming months, showcase its own version of a thousand ways to play, as demonstrated by visiting rock bands, blues bands, metal bands, country bands, and tribute bands.

GRAND CASINO HINCKLEY

777 Lady Luck Dr., Hinckley
www.grandcasinomn.com

At the Grand Casino Hinckley, you can take your chances with pull tabs, bingo, poker, blackjack, and slot machines. A grand hotel is part of the establishment, as is an RV resort. Within this camper jungle, available for rentals are a series of chalets (which loosely translates from French into Minnesotan as "fancy up Nort' cabin"). As far as eats go, Grand Casino Hinckley prides itself on offering "a taste for every occasion," and they've got the restaurants to back that offer up. Stories Diner, Silver Sevens, 411 Craft Bar, among many others, are there for your taste buds' edification. This summer, the amphitheater and the Events & Convention Center will provide a forum for, along with others, Alice Cooper, KISS, and Rascal Flatts.

GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS

777 Grand Ave., Onamia
www.grandcasinomn.com

Like its sister establishment, Grand Casino Mille Lacs offers pull tabs, bingo, poker, blackjack, and slot machines for your thrill-seeking pleasure. Its most distinctive, distinguishing physical trait is the brand new Brand Burger Bar, a sprawling eat house that Grand Casino Mille Lacs describes as "an ode to sports fans where guests can place their favorite burger order and settle in for a fun, community-based viewing of their favorite sports events." Bar-style seats are accentuated by nearly 40 big



RUNNING ACES CASINO & RACETRACK

Photo courtesy of Running Aces Casino & Racetrack

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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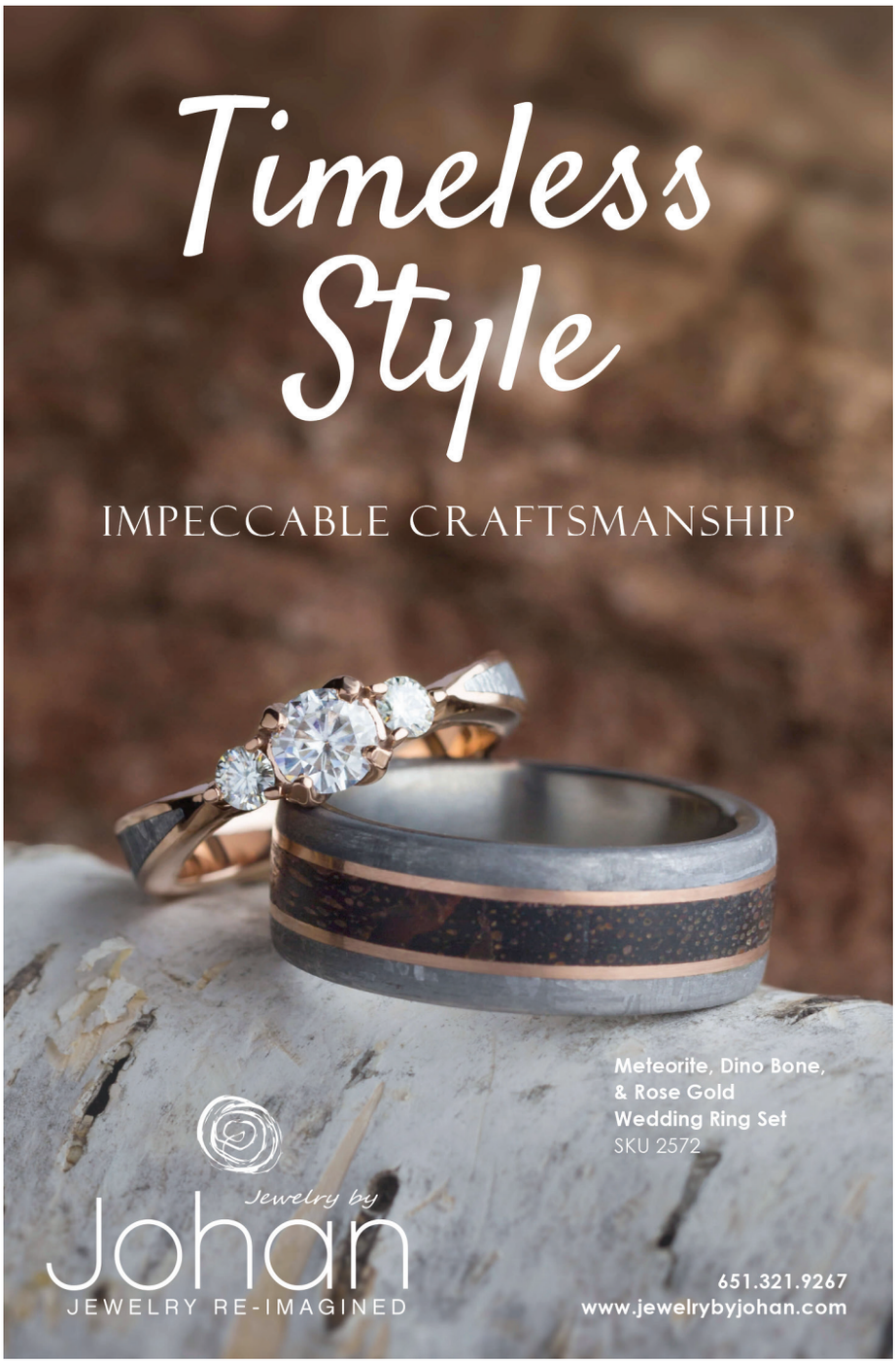


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screen television sets. Other omnivorous possibilities include Grand Buffet Mille Lacs and Plums. Grand Casino Mille Lac's Events & Convention Center is Mille Lacs' only performance venue, and this summer's acts include the Commodores, Rod Stewart, and that old, casino stalwart, Kenny Rogers.

BLACK BEAR CASINO RESORT

1785 Highway 210, Carlton
www.blackbearcasinoresort.com

Within certain Native traditions, bears are symbols of good fortune, and Black Bear Casino tries to bring that notion to life. Slot machines, poker, blackjack, and bingo are offered for your fortune-seeking pleasure. Tired gamblers can hibernate in one of 408 cubby holes found at its first-class hotel. Some amenities are a 32-inch flat screen television set, free high-speed internet access, as well as access to a world-class pool and arcade. And when you get hungry, you won't have to tear apart a bee hive, you can bring your empty tummy to the Seven Fires Steakhouse, The Buffet at the Bear, the Sage Deli, the Black Bear Coffee Shop, or the Cobalt Nightclub and Cabaret. This summer, Otter Creek Event Center will present diversions as divergent as Australian sap specialists Air Supply, country artist Martina McBride, and MMA cage fighting.

NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO

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Northern Lights Casino provides slot machines, blackjack, and poker for your gambling pleasure. A free shuttle is available to people who join the Players Club which also allows gamblers to earn redeemable points while they play. For the wagering foodie, North-Star Buffet is described as "a celebration of savory delights served fresh every day." The buffet is distinguished not by its "all you can eat" promise, but by its "all you can imagine" promise. Dancing Fire Restaurant offers expertly prepared selections including prime steaks, seafood, and more in a distinctively intimate setting. For smaller appetites, Little Star Snack Bar ("fast, fresh, and always delicious"), is the perfect place to turn hard luck into warm comfort. Northern Lights Casino's Event Center will be a crazy quilt of summer entertainment, featuring Flo Rida, Biz Markie, Rob Base, and DJ Kool in the coming season.

FORTUNE BAY RESORT CASINO

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Game possibilities at Fortune Bay Resort Casino include slot machines, blackjack, and poker. An adjoining hotel presents rooms which are equipped with a mini fridge and microwave, plus all the other resort-worthy amenities. Also, a shuttle bus service is provided for hotel guests. Assuming you haven't blown your food stipend on gaming, you can indulge in one of several restaurants, such as the Sunset Steakhouse, the Tamarack Buffet, the Gold Mine Grill, the North Star Bar, and the Wilderness Grill. And Fortune Bay isn't just a name, it's an actual place where this resort's marina is located, and it accesses Lake Vermilion: 40,000 acres of water for your aquatic pleasure. Wilderness is the name of its acclaimed golf course, and the Northstar Lounge is home to frequent live music shows. ■



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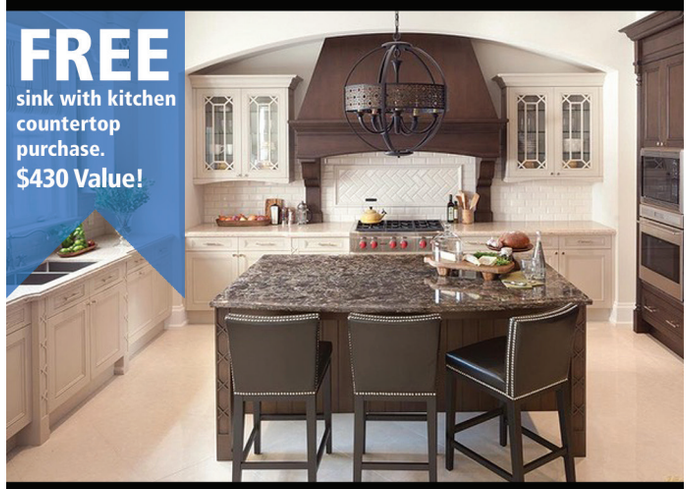
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RIDE REVIEW | BY RANDY STERN | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

2017 Subaru Impreza









It is worth repeating every time we get a Subaru in for our "Ride Review." We, as GLBT people, simply love them.

This is something worth celebrating. It is Subaru of America's 50th anniversary this year. Since 1967, Subaru has been a part of our lives and culture. Though some may argue that we came at the right time during this historic run, as Subaru was one of the first automotive companies to recognize us in their marketing, sales, and corporate responsibility efforts.

As part of Subaru's history, we responded. Not just with GLBT consumers purchasing (or leasing) Outbacks and Foresters. It is safe to say that we may know someone who owns a Legacy or a Crosstrek….or an Impreza WRX STi.

The latter car offers its own image and stereotype. Unlike our more common Subarus (the Outback and Forester) Imprezas were designed with a few kinds of customers in mind. Originally, the Impreza was seen as a competitor against the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic. They were offered as a sedan and a wagon/hatchback with available all-wheel drive, but still powered by the horizontally opposed four-cylinder engine that is the hallmark of the Subaru brand. For those of us who could not afford an Outback or Forester, we actually bought these dependable compacts as a way to become Subaru owners. And we love them!

Then, the motorsport unit of Subaru Technica International went to work on the Impreza. The result was a turbocharged "boxer" engine that pushed beyond 200 horsepower — even beyond 300 horsepower — with all-wheel drive and a huge rear spoiler that would help in keeping the Impreza on the ground. Actually, those Imprezas from Subaru Technica International were capable of flying. That is, if you consider the jumps taken by those fearless rally drivers "flying."

A generation of Subaru owners, devoid of sexual orientation, flocked to the WRX and STi models. They were the image cars for another stereotype of the sports compact crowd. One has to really want a basic Impreza, but not without getting a glance at a WRX or STi.

Over the generations, the Impreza was still seen as a dependable compact. Later versions came with standard all-wheel drive, but they were still sold as an alternative to the Corolla and Civic. But, what if we told you that Subaru now has an Impreza that is better than the mainstream compacts out there?

The 2017 Subaru Impreza has been transformed into something far from an alternative.

It starts with an all-new global architecture. This will be the platform for all Subarus to build off of going forward. It is seen as a flexible platform for products to be built alongside each other, which makes this Impreza the first of the line to be assembled at Subaru's Lafayette, Indiana plant.

The lineup includes both a four-door sedan and a five-door hatchback. Our tester is the handsome sedan, with looks that appear to be influenced by the current WRX. The front end has a blunt but handsome shape, though drawn with an angle back toward the hood and roof. The lines are sharper than before, leading toward a sculpted and three-dimensional rear end sporting Subaru's "boomerang" tail lights. The roof line is neither conservative nor adventurous, but capping a very handsome silhouette that offers sporty credentials, even in its most basic form.

Our Sport model adds an additional layer of sweetness to the Impreza's mix. The rear spoiler is low and functional. The all-black grille is aggressively handsome; other models offer a chrome strip across it. Rounding out the Impreza Sport's look are a set of 18-inch alloy wheels.

Stepping inside of the 2017 Impreza will be a winning experience. It is because it was named one of WardsAuto's "Ten Best Interiors for 2017." We agree wholeheartedly, thanks to the quality of materials, the overall layout and comfort, and the amount of information available to the driver.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

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The latter point is the key to the Impreza's interior, as there are three TFT screens and two big dials ready for the driver to work with. High on the center stack is another TFT screen providing key information not captured in the instrumentation binnacle. Otherwise, there is a solid information screen residing between the speedometer and tachometer, which includes the fuel gauge and trip/vehicle information. The Starlink screen is within finger reach for ready infotainment, along with climate controls. Overall, the controls are of high quality and superior functionality.

The big part of the Impreza's package is a new update to the Starlink infotainment system, which now has Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration on all models. The screen is larger — eight inches to be exact — with clearer view to understand controls on and off the screen. HarmonKardon provided eight speakers with 423 watts of power behind them.

The seats are very comfortable, although some negotiation will be needed to get the manual controls to fit certain bodies. There is enough bolstering on the cloth seats, along with nice surfaces for the body to work with. Rear seat room is very good, with passengers up to 6′ 1″ enjoying a nice space. The trunk holds 12.3 cubic feet of space, but the rear seat backs do fold down for longer cargo.

Under the hood is a reconstituted 2.0-liter horizontally opposed four-cylinder engine that was developed for the Impreza, now with direct injection. All told, the new 2.0-liter engine puts out 152 horsepower with 145 pound-feet of torque. On the base and Sport models, there is a five-speed manual transmission standard; something enthusiasts and those who can master the third pedal can enjoy. Otherwise, your Subaru can be equipped with a continuously variable transmission. All-wheel drive is standard on all Imprezas.

The one thing the Impreza offers to the driver is superb performance. Once it gets through the initial climb of the CVT, the engine relaxes and becomes quite the athlete. When pressed, the Boxer engine and CVT responds without hesitation. As for fuel economy we turned in an average of 28.0 MPG.

The suspension is excellent with a great mix of ride and handling. By excellent, it means a very smooth ride on the highway, with absorbent shocks and springs managing potholes and cracks and flatter cornering. With the Sport model, the ride/handling mix was very confident at every move it made.

It steers extremely well a direct feel in the turns at the wheel. The steering weight is heavier, matching the thick rim of the wheel. The brakes were more superb in feel and response. Stopping power is quite good in normal and panic situations.

EyeSight, Subaru's active safety nerve center, is also available on most models in this generation of Impreza. It is part of a suite of features that include forward collision warning, adaptive cruise control, blind spot monitoring, lane departure warning, and rearview camera with cross traffic alert.

Pricing starts from $18,395 for a basic 2.0i Sedan. Our Sport sedan tester came with a sticker price of $26,560.

Let us get this off our chest: we absolutely love the new 2017 Subaru Impreza! It is not just a solid compact car, but it exhibits a lot of great attributes that will make it among the leaders in its class. It is athletic, well built, and a solid car overall.

The big question is whether you will buy one. It is not exactly intended to replace an Outback, Forester, or Crosstrek. But, for an all-wheel drive compact sedan with a different approach to performance, engineering, and customer engagement, those who are looking elsewhere may want to see and drive the new Impreza. ■

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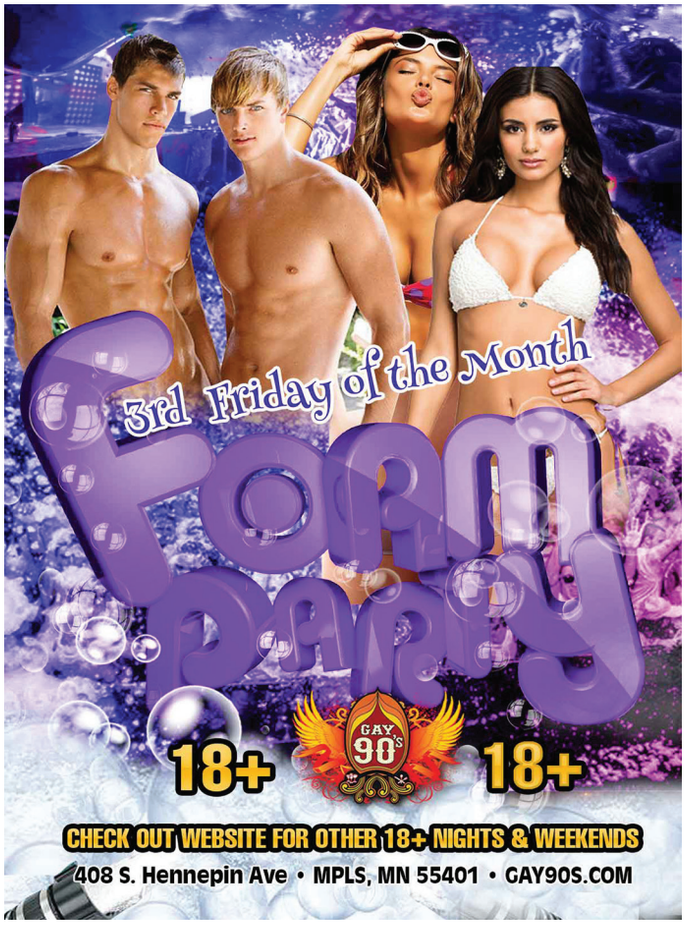


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DATELAND | BY JENNIFER PARELLO

Free Bird

Pet birds hate me. This is a problem I've had to deal with my entire life. Any time I visit friends who have a pet bird, the bird begins bouncing manically on its perch and narrows its already narrow eyes in raw enmity. It then lashes around its cage in a rage and screeches a song filled with venom.

"I don't know what's wrong with Polly," my bird friend will say, looking with concern as their typically placid pet goes berserk and tries to break free from its cell so it can peck my eyes out.

This has happened enough times over the course of my life that I've been forced to face the difficult truth that caged birds have some beef with me. And I have a theory on why they despise me.

I don't see this behavior when I encounter birds in the wild, who never pay any attention to me. (Well, there once was a seagull who dive-bombed my ice cream cone and got its beak stuck in it. When it finally managed to pull out of it, I was left with a beak-shaped divot in my ice cream, and a new appreciation for the can-do attitude of waterfowl.)

I've long speculated that caged birds resent me because they can immediately sense my joie de vivre, independence, and devil-may-care lifestyle. No one can stick me in a cage and force me to mimic their words. "Polly want a cracker?" I think not! I'll get my own damned cracker anytime I please, thank you very much.

They may be cosseted by their owners and fed the finest seeds and mealworms, but one look at me and they forget their pampered surroundings and yearn to return to their wild roots. I represent everything they've given up for a soft, stable, luxurious perch in a gilded cage.

I was a free bird for most of my life. But then two years ago, suddenly and without warning, my wings got clipped in the most glorious way. I followed the shiny object of my dreams into her suburban home, and I didn't even flinch when I heard the door close behind me.

For all these months, I've been contentedly swinging on my perch, enjoying the easy delights of domesticity and not giving a moment's thought to my former life of hopping from branch to branch indiscriminately.

But then, last weekend, we were visited by a recently single acquaintance. She waltzed into the house without a care in the world, crashing through our life as if it didn't have well-defined boundaries carefully designed to prevent this type of chaos.

As she casually stomped on our happy routines and shoved handfuls of my sunflower seeds into her greedy mouth, I felt my features ruffling.

As she cast a greedy eye at the woman I have chosen to nest with, I became proprietary and started rattling my cage.

As she coldly dismissed my growing outrage at the lack of respect she was showing for our relationship and our home, I began to squawk loudly.

Trapped by the constructs of laws and good manners, I didn't attack her. But, God, how I wanted to.

When she finally left — hopefully, forever — I settled back on my perch, newly apprehensive that some wild thing could so easily disrupt my gilded home life.

And that's when I realized that pet birds were never jealous of me. Rather, they felt threatened by me. I was a feral interloper who jeopardized their happy little homes.

They didn't want my life. Instead, they wanted me out of their lives, because they had no desire to return to the wild life. And they were going to peck out anyone's eyes who threatened to knock them off their perch. ■







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www.municipalbuildingcommission.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

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St. Paul, MN
(651) 266-1255
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Family Tree Clinic
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1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 645-0478
www.familytreeclinic.org

NAMI Minnesota
(National Alliance on Mental Illness) Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses.
800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

Red Door Clinic
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525 Portland Ave S., 4th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(612) 543-5555
Reddoorclinic.org

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Quatrefoil Library
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Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 729-2543
www.qlibrary.org

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(612) 625-9494
www.wam.umn.edu

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610 Rarig Center
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 625-3500
www.radiok.org

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http://www.childrenstheatre.org

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northrop.umn.edu

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(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

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Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 333-6669
mnopera.org

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20 W. 7th Pl. / 408 St. Peter St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 291-7005
www.parksquaretheatre.org

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Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

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Minneapolis, MN
(612) 822-0127
www.outfront.org

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www.tcpride.org

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www.firstunitarian.org

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Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

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(612) 870-7800
www.ourcathedral.org

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797 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 227-6311
www.hohchurch.org

United Methodist Reconciling Churches
Congregations around Minnesota that intentionally welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
www.mnrcumc.org

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Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL)
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Minneapolis, MN
www.tcgsl.org

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www.madelineisland.com

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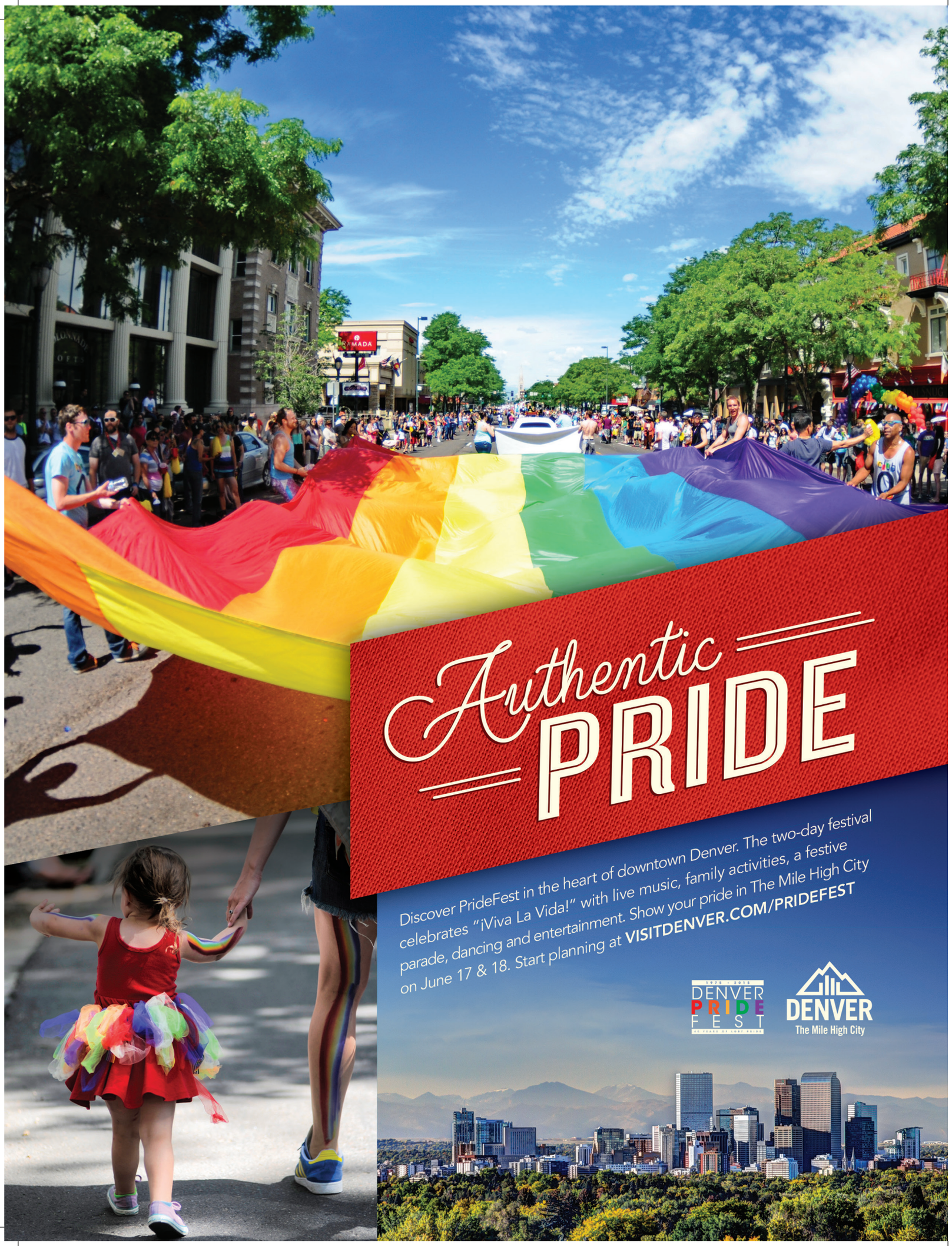
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